AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the above-captioned patent application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A thermometry apparatus comprising:

a housing having ~~an integral elongate~~ a formed internal cavity closed at a bottom end;

an elongate probe that includes at least one temperature responsive element;

a removable isolation chamber sized for receiving said elongate probe, said isolation chamber being selectively insertable into and removable from said ~~integral elongate~~ internal housing cavity and said elongate probe being sized for fitting into an elongate enclosed cavity of said isolation chamber;

a shroud assembly disposed within said closed housing cavity into which at least a portion of said isolation chamber is received;

a first switch assembly that ~~which~~ is enabled ~~only if~~ when said isolation chamber is ~~provided~~ inserted into ~~in the cavity of said housing~~ said shroud assembly, said shroud assembly being attached to said first switch assembly; and

a second switch assembly which is enabled ~~only if~~ when a said probe is removed from ~~an~~ said isolation chamber that is provided in said housing cavity, said first and second switch assemblies being interconnected such that said thermometry apparatus is not powered unless said first switch assembly and said second switch assembly are each enabled.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Canceled).

4. (Canceled).

5. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim [[4]] 1, wherein said first switch assembly is a mechanical switch that is enabled ~~only~~ when said isolation chamber is inserted a predetermined distance into said shroud assembly.

6. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 1 ~~2~~, wherein said second switch assembly comprises an optical switch.

7. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim [[4]] 1, wherein said shroud assembly is attached to a circuit board containing processing circuitry, said first switch assembly also being attached to said circuit board.

8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said isolation chamber provides a fluid tight seal when said isolation chamber is fitted into said housing cavity.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for automatically powering a thermometry apparatus, said apparatus comprising a housing having an elongate cavity sized for receiving a removable isolation chamber and a probe with at least one temperature sensitive element, said method comprising the steps of:

enabling a first switch assembly when ~~only if~~ a removable isolation chamber is inserted into ~~provided within~~ the elongate housing cavity, said first switch assembly being attached to a tubular shroud assembly disposed in said housing cavity and having an opening sized to receive said isolation chamber, said first switch assembly being enabled when said isolation chamber is placed a predetermined distance into the opening of said tubular shroud assembly;

enabling a second switch assembly ~~only if~~ when a probe is removed from an isolation chamber provided within the housing cavity; and

automatically powering said thermometry apparatus when ~~only if~~ said first and second switch assemblies are each enabled.

10. (Canceled).

11. (Canceled).

12. (Canceled).

13. (Canceled).

14. (Canceled).

15. (Canceled).

16. (New) A method according to Claim 9, wherein said second switch assembly comprises an optical emitter and detector disposed on opposing sides of said housing cavity, said isolation chamber including a pair of light transmissive windows to permit light from said light emitter to pass through said isolation chamber when a probe is not present within the cavity of said isolation chamber.

17. (New) A method according to Claim 9, wherein said second switch assembly comprises an optical light emitter and detector disposed on opposing sides of said housing cavity, at least a portion of said isolation chamber being made from a light transmissive material to permit light from said emitter to be detected by said detector when a probe is not present in the cavity.